I: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

that amber is gathered here, near the *Penſchinſka* ſea, upon the river *Tegbil*, and farther north. 135

CHAP. V.

Of TREES *and* PLANTS.

THE moſt uſeful wood is the larch *, and the white poplar †, which ſerves for building their houſes and forts; and they are fit, not only for ſuch boats as the inhabitants uſe, but even for the building of ſhips. The larch-tree, indeed, only grows upon the river *Kamtſchatka*, and ſuch other rivers as fall into it: in other places they make uſe of the white poplar. The pine-tree ‖ and the black poplar ‡ are no where to be found upon the *Kamtſchatka*; and the pitch-tree ** only in one place, and there in ſmall quantities. Although there be many birch-trees ††, yet they make little uſe of them, unleſs in their ſledges, having none near their houſes but what are crooked and uſeleſs; and it is very troubleſome to bring the better ſort from the diſtance at which it grows. 137 313

They make great uſe of the birch bark, which they ſtrip from the trees while yet green; and cutting it in ſmall pieces, like vermicelli, eat it with dried caviar. In the winter, whenever you enter any of their villages, you find the women employed in hacking this green bark with their bone or ſtone axes. They alſo ferment this bark with the juice or ſap of the birch, which makes an agreeable drink. The birches of 314 222 252 273

* Larix. † Populus alba. ‖ Pinus. ‡ Populus nigra. ** Pinus. †† Betula.

the commanding officer that the kettle with ſlantza and cedar tops ſhould never be taken from the fire. Red currants, raſberries, and kneſhnitza are very rare there, or grow at ſuch a diſtance from their houſes that no one cares to go in ſearch of them. The blackberries of the gimoloſt * are of great uſe, being of an agreeable taſte, ſomething like new-fermented beer. The bark of this ſhrub is uſeful in diſtilling brandy, giving ſtrength and ſharpneſs to the ſpirit.

The juniper † grows every where; but they do not uſe the berries, as they lay up great ſtore of moroſky ‖, pianitza ‡, bruſhnitza **, klioukva ††, and vodinitza ‖‖: and when they have great plenty of theſe berries they not only uſe them as confects, but diſtil brandy from them, except from klioukva and vodinitza, which yield no ſpirit. Mr. *Steller* writes, that the vodinitza is no bad remedy for the ſcurvy; and the inhabitants dye any old cloaths with it that have loſt a ſcolour, to which it gives a cherry-colour. Some boil it up with train-oil and alum, and dye the beaver and coarſe ſables with it well enough to deceive the unwary or ignorant. In many places they content themſelves with roots and herbs, and make them ſupply not only their want of bread, but of fiſh alſo. The principal of theſe is the ſaranne, which ſerves inſtead of groats. It belongs to the claſs of the lillies ‡‡; but as this ſort is never ſeen any where but in *Ochotſkoy* and *Kamtſchatka*, I ſhall give a deſcription of it. It grows about half a foot high; has a ſtalk near the thickneſs of a ſwan's quill, red below and green above. Its leaves grow in two

* Lonicera pedunculis biflorio, floribus infundibuli formis, bacca ſolitaria, oblonga, anguloſa. GMEL. flor. Sib.

† Juniperus.

‖ Chamemorus RAII Syn.

‡ Vaccinium Spec. 2. LINN. Bilberry.

** Vaccinium Bilberry Spec. 3. LINN.

†† Vaccinium Red Crowberry Spec. 4.

‖‖ Empetrum.

‡‡ Lillium flore atro rubente.

which grows upon the Great River; but neither he nor I ever saw this in the flower: 5thly, matiſta ſladka trava *, or the ſweet plant, is as uſeful in their oeconomy as the ſaranne; for the *Kamtſchadales* uſe this not only as a confection in tarts and broths, but in all their ſuperſtitious ceremonies this is abſolutely neceſſary. The *Ruſſians* were no ſooner ſettled there, than they found that brandy was to be diſtilled from it; and at preſent this is the only brandy that is publickly ſold. The root of this herb is without yellowiſh, within, white; and of a bitter, ſpicy taſte. The ſtem is fleſhy, of three or four joints, and about a man's height. Its flower is a reddiſh green, with ſhort white hairs, longeſt near the root. The leaves upon the ſtem neareſt the root are five or ſix, and ſometimes even ten: they grow upon thick, round, fleſhy, green, rough ſtalks, marked with little red ſpots. Upon the main ſtem, at every joint, ariſes one ſuch leaf, but without a ſtalk. The flowers are ſmall and white, like fennel, or other herbs of that ſort; and conſiſt of five leaves, of which the innermoſt are largeſt, and the outward ſmalleſt. It has two ovaria upon every flower, upon ſhort ſmall necks; and round them are five white ſtamina with green points, which riſe higher than the flower. The flowers, taken all together, reſemble a plate; while the ſtalks which ſupport the umbella are longeſt without, and in the middle ſhorteſt: ſtalks ariſe from every joint, upon which are flowers.

This plant abounds every where in *Kamtſchatka*, and the inhabitants gather and prepare it in this manner: they cut off the ſtalks of the leaves which grow neareſt the root, and with a ſhell

* Sphondylium foliolis pinnatifidis. Linn. Cliff.

ſcrape

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

222 252 ſcrape off the ſkin; and then bind up ten ſtalks together. When it begins to ſmell a little, then they put it in a bag to ſweeten; where it yields a ſweet duſt, which perhaps ſweats out from the pith of the plant. This herb-ſugar, as they call it, has ſomething the taſte of liquorice, and is not very pleaſant. A pood of the plant does not afford above a quarter of a pound of this duſt.

137 252 The women, when they gather this,[1] muſt wear gloves; for the juice is ſo ſharp or cauſtic, than whenever it falls upon the fleſh it raiſes ſwellings and bliſters. For this reaſon, when in the ſpring the *Ruſſians* eat it freſh, they only bite it with their teeth, taking care not to touch it with their lips. I have ſeen inſtances of ſome that were unacquainted with this, who raſhly chewed it as they would do any other herb; upon which, not only their lips, but their chin, noſe, and cheeks, and alſo wherever the juice of this plant had touched, was immediately ſwelled up and full of bliſters; and although theſe burſt, yet the ſwelling continued for a whole week.

273 556 The manner of diſtilling ſpirits from it is as follows:—They lay ſeveral bundles of this plant in a ſmall veſſel, upon which they pour hot water; and to make it ferment, they put in ſome berries of honey-ſuckle or cranberries, and binding the veſſel cloſe up ſet it in a warm place, where they leave it until the liquor ceaſes to make a noiſe; for during the time of fermentation, it cracks and bounces ſo much as to make the veſſel ſhake. In the ſame manner they prepare more wort in a large veſſel, and add to this, which now generally ferments in 24 hours, as above. They throw both the fermented herbs and liquor into the kettle, and cover it cloſe with a wooden cover; and inſtead of a pipe they take the barrel of a gun. The firſt running is as ſtrong as brandy; which, if they diſtil a ſecond time, produces a ſpirit ſo ſtrong that it conſumes even iron. But it is

1. [the sweet herb, sphondylium foliis pinnatifidis Linn. Cliff.]

is only the richer ſort of people that uſe this brandy; and what they ſell is only the firſt running, which makes a very good dram.

Two pood of herbs[1] generally render one vedro * of the firſt running, and the pood coſts four rubles or more. The herbs that remain in the ſtill after drawing off all the ſpirit, are made uſe of as a yeſt, inſtead of berries, to ferment other infuſions or wort; and what they cannot uſe thus the cattle eat very greedily, and it fattens them much. It is remarkable that brandy diſtilled from the plants from which the ſkin has not been clean ſcraped, it cauſes melancholy and perturbation of mind. Mr *Steller* made the following remarks upon this brandy: 1ſt, that it is very piercing, and contains a good deal of a ſharp acid, which coagulates the blood and makes it black: 2dly, that a ſmall quantity of it makes people drunk and quite ſenſeleſs, and cauſes their faces to turn black: 3dly, that if a perſon drinks a few drams of it, he is plagued the whole night with diſagreeable dreams, and next day is uneaſy and diſturbed as if terrified with the apprehenſion of the greateſt misfortune: and, what is very extraordinary, he has ſeen ſome people the day after they have been drunk with this ſpirit, from one draught of cold water, become again ſo drunk that they could not ſtand upon their feet. They wet their hair with the juice, which they ſqueeze out of this herb in the ſpring, as a preſervative againſt lice, and find it to be their only relief. Many of the *Kamtſchadales*, who deſire to have children, will not eat this herb, green or dry, imagining that it impairs the generative faculties.

The herb kipri†, which grows in all *Europe* and *Aſia*, has the third place in the food of the *Kamtſchadales*. They

* Vedro is a *Ruſſian* liquid meaſure containing 25 pints.

† Epilobium. Linn. Succ. Spec. 1. French willows.

1. [the sweet herb, Sphondylium foliis pinnatifidis Linn. Cliff. boil

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

boil it with their fiſh, and uſe the leaves as tea; but the greateſt uſe is made of its pith, which, after having ſplit the ſtalks, they ſcrape out with ſhells, and, tied up in bundles, dry it in the ſun. It is then very pleaſant, and in taſte reſembles dried *Perſian* cucumbers. The *Kamtſchadales* uſe it in ſeveral diſhes, and ſerve it up green as a deſert. The kipri boiled gives a thick ſweet wort, that makes the beſt quaſſe * imaginable: it alſo affords them a very ſtrong vinegar, if to ſix pounds of the kipri they add a pound of the ſweet herb of ſphondilium, and ferment it in the uſual way: they get a great deal more brandy, when they uſe the infuſion of the kipri, inſtead of water, to prepare the ſweet herb for diſtillation.

They cure the navels of their children with this herb, chewing it, and laying it upon the part. They grind the roots and ſtalks, and uſe them inſtead of green tea, to which the flavour has ſome reſemblance. The ſame uſe the *Kuriles* make of another ſhrub †, which has flowers like the ſtrawberry, only yellow, and produces no berries. This is called *Kuriſkoy* tea, and has great virtue in fluxes and gripes.

The wild garlick ‖ is not only uſeful in the kitchen, but alſo in medicine. Both the *Ruſſians* and *Kamtſchadales* gather great quantities, which they cut and dry in the ſun for their winter proviſion; at which time boiling it in water they ferment it a little, and uſe it as an herb ſoup, which they call *ſhami*. They eſteem the wild garlick ſo efficacious a remedy againſt the ſcurvy, that they think themſelves in no danger ſo ſoon as it begins to

* Quaſſe is a *Ruſſian* drink made of rye-malt, and flower, and very little fermented. Sometimes they add mint to it, and it makes no diſagreeable drink.

† Potentilla caule fruticoſa. LINN. Cliff.

‖ Allium foliis radicalibus petiolatis floribus umbellatis. GMEL. flor. Sib. tom. 1. p. 49.

ſhew

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

better; the *Jakutſki* alſo dig deep pits, in which they lay their fiſh, ſprinkling it with wood aſhes, and cover it with leaves at top, and over all put a layer of earth: this method is better than any of the former. The *Tunguſi* and Coſſacks of *Ochotſka* preſerve their fiſh in the ſame manner, with this difference only, that inſtead of wood aſhes, they uſe the aſhes of burnt ſea weed. They boil their freſh fiſh in troughs, take it out with boards, and letting it cool, eat it with a ſoup made of the ſweet graſs.

As for the fleſh of land and ſea animals, they boil it in their troughs, with ſeveral different herbs and roots; the broth they drink out of ladles and bowls, and the meat they take out upon boards, and eat in their hands. The whale and ſea horſe fat they alſo boil with roots.

There is a principal diſh at all their feaſts and entertainments, called *ſelaga*, which they make by pounding all ſorts of different roots and berries, with the addition of caviar, and whale and ſeals' fat.

Before the conqueſt they ſeldom uſed any thing for drink but water: but when they made merry they drank water which had ſtood ſome time upon muſhroons; but of this hereafter. At preſent they drink ſpirits as faſt as the *Ruſſians*: after dinner they drink water; and every one, when he goes to bed at night, ſets a veſſel of water by him, to which he puts ſnow or ice to keep it cold; and always drinks it up before morning. In the winter time they amuſe themſelves frequently by throwing handfuls of ſnow into their mouths; and the bridegrooms who work with the fathers of their future brides find it their hardeſt task to provide ſnow for their family in the ſummer time, for they muſt bring it from the higheſt hills be the weather what it will, otherwiſe they would ſo diſoblige as never to be forgiven.

l: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

people, it has been perverted by fooliſh and ridiculous ceremonies; and this appears the more probable, becauſe that, after their ſummer or harveſt labour is over, they look upon it as a ſin to do any work, or make any viſits, before this holiday, which if any one neglects he is obliged to expiate it at that time, if not before. From hence we may ſee that the anceſtors of this people were accuſtomed to offer up the firſt fruits of their ſummer labours to God, and to make merry with one another. The northern and ſouthern *Kamtſchadales* have different ceremonies in the celebration of their holidays, which are extremely ſilly, and conſiſt of many ridiculous anticks. I ſhall give a ſlight ſketch of one of theſe aſſemblies in the ſouthern *Kamtſchatka*.

After many ſtrange ceremonies they introduce a little bird and a fiſh, which they roaſt upon the coals, and divide amongſt them, when every one throws his ſhare into the fire as a ſacrifice, or an offering, to thoſe ſpirits which come to their feaſts; then they boil dried fiſh, the broth of which they pour out before their image, and eat the fiſh themſelves; and then take the birch-tree out of the hut, and carrying it to their magazines, lay it up there to be kept for the whole year. Thus ends the feſtival.

CHAP. XIV.

Of their FEASTS *and* DIVERSIONS.

THEY make feaſts when one village entertains another, either upon the account of a wedding, or having had a plentiful fiſhing or hunting. The landlords entertain their gueſts with great bowls of opanga, 'till they are all ſet a vomiting;

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

273 ing; ſometimes they uſe a liquor made of a large muſhroon, with which the *Ruſſians* kill flies. This they prepare with the juice of epilobium, or *French* willow.

The firſt ſymptom of a man's being affected with this liquor is a trembling in all his joints, and in half an hour he begins to rave as if in a fever; and is either merry or melancholy mad, according to his peculiar conſtitution. Some jump, dance, and ſing; others weep, and are in terrible agonies, a ſmall hole appearing to them as a great pit, and a ſpoonful of water as a lake: but this is to be underſtood of thoſe who uſe it to exceſs; for taken in a ſmall quantity it raiſes their ſpirits, and makes them briſk, courageous, and chearful.

276 824 828 It is obſerved, whenever they have eaten of this plant, they maintain that, whatever fooliſh things they did, they only obeyed the commands of the muſhroon: however, the uſe of it is certainly ſo dangerous, that unleſs they were well looked after it would be the deſtruction of numbers of them. The *Kamtſchadales* do not much care to relate theſe drunken frolicks, and perhaps the continual uſe of it renders it leſs dangerous to them. One of our Coſſacks reſolved to eat of this muſhroon in order to ſurpriſe his comrades; and this he actually did, but it was with great difficulty they preſerved his life. Another of the inhabitants of *Kamtſchatka*, by the uſe of this muſhroon, imagined that he was upon the brink of hell ready to be thrown in, and that the muſhroon ordered him to fall upon his knees, and make a full confeſſion of all the ſins he could remember, which he did before a great number of his comrades, to their no ſmall diverſion. It is related, that a ſoldier of the garriſon having eaten a little of this muſhroon, walked a great way without any fatigue, but at laſt, having taken too great 276 a quantity, he died. My interpreter drank ſome of this juice without knowing of it, and became ſo mad, that it was with difficulty that we kept him from ripping open his

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

563 proviſions ſent from Okotſk, and convey them from the mouth of the Bolchaïa-reka to Bolcheretſk. The reſt of the inhabitants are compoſed of merchants and ſailors.

563 437 273 Theſe people, Ruſſians and Coſſacs, together with a mixed breed found among them, carry on a clandeſtine commerce, ſometimes in one article, and ſometimes in another; it varies as often as they ſee any reaſon for changing it; but it is never with a view of enriching themſelves by honeſt means. Their induſtry is a continual knaviſhneſs; it is ſolely employed in cheating the poor Kamtſchadales, whoſe credulity and inſuperable propenſity to drunkenneſs, leave them entirely at the mercy of theſe dangerous plunderers. Like our mountebanks, and other knaves of this kind, they go from village to village to inveigle the too ſilly natives: they propoſe to ſell them brandy, which they artfully preſent to them

7: Lesseps T-3 (1787-88) 1790 Kamchadal

563 to taſte. It is almoſt impoſſible for a Kamt-
437 ſchadale, male or female, to refuſe this offer.
273 The firſt eſſay is followed by many others; preſently their heads become affected, they are intoxicated, and the craft of the tempters ſucceed. No ſooner are they arrived to a ſtate of inebriety, than theſe pilferers know how to obtain from them the barter of their moſt valuable effects, that is, their whole ſtock of furs, frequently the fruit of the labour of a whole ſeaſon, which was to enable them to pay their tribute to the crown, and procure perhaps ſubſiſtance for a whole family. But no conſideration can ſtop a Kamtſchadale drunkard; every thing is forgotten, every thing is ſacrificed to the gratification of his appetite, and the momentary pleaſure of ſwallowing a few glaſſes of brandy*, reduces

* This is well known to be the ruling paſſion of all the people of the north; but I have had more than one occaſion to obſerve, that the Kamtſchadales are inferior in this reſpect

7: Lesseps T-3 (1787-88) 1790 Kamchadal

437 duces him to the utmoſt wretchedneſs.
273 Nor is it poſſible for the moſt painful expe-
563 rience to put them on their guard againſt their own weakneſs, or the cunning perfidy of theſe traders, who in their turn drink,

reſpect to none of them. The following ſtory, among others, was told me, that I might be able to judge of the rapacity of theſe vagabond traders, and the ſtupid prodigality of their dupes.

A Kamtſchadale had given a ſable for a glaſs of brandy. Inflamed with a deſire of drinking another, he invited the ſeller into his houſe. The merchant thanked him, but ſaid he was in a hurry. The Kamtſchadale renewed his ſolicitations, and propoſed a ſecond bargain: he prevailed.—"Come, another glaſs for this ſable, it is a finer "one than the firſt.—No; I muſt keep the reſt of my "brandy; I have promiſed to ſell it at ſuch a place, and I "muſt be gone.—Stay a moment; here are two ſables.—"'Tis all in vain.—Well, come, I will add another.—"Agreed, drink." Meanwhile the three ſables are ſeized, and the hypocrite makes a freſh pretence to come away: his hoſt redoubles his importunities to retain him, and demands a third glaſs: further refuſals and further offers: the higher the chapman raiſes his price, the more the Kamtſchadale is prodigal of his furs. Who would have ſuppoſed that it would have ended in the ſacrifice of ſeven moſt beautiful ſables for this laſt glaſs! they were all he had.

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

273 in like manner, all the profits of their
437 knavery.

273 I ſhall terminate the article of commerce
435 by adding, that the perſons who deal moſt
439 in wholeſale, are merely agents of the merchants of Totma, Vologda, Grand Uſtiug, and different towns of Siberia, or the factors of other opulent traders, who extend even to this diſtant country their commercial ſpeculations.

All the wares and proviſions, which neceſſity obliges them to purchaſe from the magazines, are ſold exceſſively dear, and at about ten times the current price at Moſcow. A *vedro** of French brandy coſts eighty roubles†. The merchants are al-

* A Ruſſian meaſure containing from fifteen to twenty quarts.

† Eighteen pounds ſterling, eſtimating the rouble at four ſhillings and ſixpence.

lowed

7: Lesseps T-3 (1787-88) 1790 Kamchadal

273 lowed to traffic in this article; but the
435 brandy, diſtilled from corn, which is brought
439 from Okotſk, and that produced by the
177 country, which is diſtilled from the *ſlat-kaia-trava*, or ſweet herb, are ſold, upon government account, at forty one roubles ninety-ſix kopecks* the vedro. They can be ſold only in the *kabacs*, or public houſes, opened for that purpoſe. At Okotſk, the price of brandy diſtilled from corn is no more than eighteen roubles the vedro; ſo that the expence of freight is charged at twenty-three roubles ninety-ſix kopecks, which appears exorbitant, and enables us to form ſome judgment of the accruing profit.

The reſt of the merchandize conſiſts of nankins and other China ſtuffs, together with various commodities of Ruſſian and foreign manufacture, as ribands, handker-

* Nine pounds nine ſhillings.

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

136 uſed; but it is wholeſome and nouriſhing
252 in whatever mode it may be prepared.
262
273

From the wild garlic* they make a harſh and fermented beverage, which has a very unpleaſant taſte; it is alſo uſed in various ſauces; the Kamtſchadales are very fond of it.

The ſlatkaïa-trava, or ſweet herb, is pleaſant enough when it is freſh. This plant† has alſo been minutely deſcribed by the Engliſh. It is highly eſteemed by the natives, particularly the ſpirit diſtilled from it. Soon after it is gathered, they ſlit it in two, and ſcrape out the pith with a muſcle-ſhell: they then dry it for winter, and

* It is called in Kamtſchatka, *tſcheremſcha*. Gmelin denominates it: *allium foliis radicalibus petiolatis, floribus umbellatis*. Vol. 1. p. 49.

† *Spondilium foliolis pinnatifidis*. See Linn. The juice of the rind of this plant is ſo acrid, that it is impoſſible to touch it without bliſtering the hand. In gathering it they take care to wear gloves.

when

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

252 439 273 when they uſe it in their ragouts, it is previouſly boiled. Brandy is alſo diſtilled from this ſweet herb, which, as I obſerved before, is ſold on account of government: for this purpoſe the plant is purchaſed of the Kamtſchadales*.

162 563 There are three ſorts of inhabitants, the natives or Kamtſchadales, the Ruſſians and Coſſacs, and the deſcendants from intermarriages.

The indigenes, that is, thoſe whoſe blood is unmixed, are few in number; the ſmall pox has carried off three fourths of them, and the few that are left are diſperſed through the different oſtrogs of the peninſula; in Bolcheretſk it would be difficult to find more than one or two.

* This brandy intoxicates much quicker than French brandy; whoever drinks it, is ſure to be extremely agitated during the night, and to feel the next day as melancholy and reſtleſs as if he had committed ſome crime.

The

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal

224 for the skins varies very much if these be sold separately. But
438 generally the season's catch is disposed of *en masse*, and a fixed
443 price paid per head, whether good, bad, or indifferent. By far the
452 greater part of the trade lies in the hands of the individual I have
563 alluded to under his title of the King of Kamschatka. That he was by no means beloved of his subjects was abundantly evident, but his power was so great that but few were able, even if they dared, to shake off the hold he had upon them. As the owner of what was, practically, the only store in Petropaulovsky, the natives became easily indebted to him, their account for goods supplied being invariably in excess of the amount allowed for the furs brought for disposal. They are thus, we were informed, obliged to bring the catch of the following season to the same market, where, owing to the absence of competition, the prices are by no means high. If the corresponding profit upon the flour, cloth, and other goods sold be taken into consideration, it will be seen that, with a little capital and an elastic conscience, a fur-trader in Kamschatka ought not to do badly.

435 In St. Petersburg the price of a single sable-skin ranges from
563 £2 to £25. In Kamschatka the wretched peasant, living upon half-rotten fish and exposed to the rigours of a climate which, in its severity, surpasses that of almost every inhabited region of the world, receives, nominally, an average of sixteen roubles[1] per skin. In reality, as I have stated, he has to take out this value in
273 goods. He is wise if he does so, and can keep clear of the brandy,
435 which, in spite of the law which forbids its sale anywhere but
R in Petropaulovsky, has proved the ruin of so many of his country-
177 men.
.27 The price of other skins is generally settled individually. A fairly good bear's skin fetches about three or four roubles. It is only the very finest and largest that will bring as much as seven roubles. A river otter, if in good condition, is valued at the latter

[1] The Russian paper rouble is worth nearly half-a-crown; the silver rouble about three shillings and sixpence.

[see page 74--analyst]

27: Sauer--308-309 T-2 (1789-93) 1802 Kamchadal
116, 157, 273

"They are an honest and hospitable race of men, extremely fond of music and of brandy. One of them, who constantly accompanied me in my aquatic excursions, and expended every farthing of his money in brandy, I one day saw coming to my habitation; and, to tempt him, I hid myself in an adjoining [309] room, leaving a glass of brandy upon the table, and a bottle half full close to it, with some sea-biscuit. He came in, saw nobody, and called me, but obtained no answer. Upon which he advanced to the table, and smelt to the glass: 'It is brandy,' said he, 'but I will not drink; and the bottle 'half full; well, I won't taste you; but I'll go and seek master, and scold him for leaving 'you in this manner. I'll just smell again, and go.'--I stepped out of window into the garden, and went to meet him: when he accosted me in the following manner: 'I have 'been into your room and saw a glass full of brandy; perhaps you won't believe me, but 'indeed I did not taste it.' -- 'I dare say you did.'--'No, by G--, I did not: I knew you 'would not believe me; but a Kamtshadal will never take anything without permission.' --'Well, I must believe you; will you come and drink it?'--'Yes, that I will; but I 'wanted to scold you for leaving it so.' "

27: Sauer--309-310 T-2 (1789-93) 1802 Kamchadal
116, 177, 273, 439, 651 Russia
636.65

"They have long since adopted the manners of the Russians, and profess the Greek religion. Of their former customs there only exist their lascivious dances, and their impure language, with part of the dress. They entertain the greatest veneration for the memory of Major Behm, under whose command they enjoyed the protection of a father. At that time Kamtshatka was governed merely by the major and his assistant, Captain Shmaleff, without any other court of justice. The revenue of this peninsula was then 40,000 rubles annually, arising from the tribute of the natives, the profits on brandy, and the duty on furs; which sum was remitted to the chancery of Ochotsk: a trading expedition in two or more open boats was yearly undertaken by the natives, accompanied by the priest of the peninsula, to the Kuril islands; from whence they obtained sea-otter skins of a superior [310] quality, several Japanese articles, and wrought silks. The merchants who visited the peninsula brought other necessaries, and hard money for the articles of the natives. Brandy not being considered as an article of trade, but a government concern, the sale was prohibited; and, the commander or his assistant inspecting the transactions of the merchants, prevented fraudulent proceedings on both sides."

27: Sauer--312 T-2 (1789-93) 1802 Kamchadal
116, 273

"French brandy is now regarded as an article of trade; and a spurious sort is carried about the villages of the natives, who are very fond of it, and pay for it at the rate of one ruble per glass."

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal

273 435 563 733 Another great cause of this ravage in population has arisen from the introduction of spirits: a Kamtchatdale will sell his last sable or fox for a glass of it, though he is not physically strong enough to drink any thing of the kind. When it is considered that sixteen thousand bottles of this trash are consumed in the short period of three or four months by six or seven hundred people, we may well feel pity and surprise—pity for the poor women and children, and surprise at the means of getting either the money or sables. Such a quantity of spirit ought to sell for fifty thousand roubles, which is one hundred per cent. upon the price at Okotsk, but it is in reality sold for twice that sum. When it is recollected that officers, soldiers, sailors, merchants, and priests travel round the Peninsula for the purposes of trade, it will be less wonderful when I assert that each bottle of spirits sold to the Kamtchatdales, produces the value of ten and twelve shillings. Now allowing half the quantity imported (eight thousand bottles) to be consumed by the aborigines, this would produce from eighty to one hundred thousand roubles, while the cost is, in Okotsk, only twenty-five thousand. I have seen a bottle of spirits sold for a sable, and afterwards, when the party was drunk, a bottle of adulterated liquor has fetched the same price: in short, I have seen three and even four sables given for two bottles of spirits.

Allowing seven hundred and fifty families of the

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22)1824 Kamchadal

273
435
733

Koriaks and Kamtchatdales, which is five to each family, and that half the quantity of imported spirit is consumed by them, it will appear that each family consumes at least twelve bottles in four months. By this plan the poor purchaser is drunk for days together, and for the rest of the year can get nothing to cheer him under his depression. The cost of that spirit to the Kamtchatdales is one hundred and fifty or two hundred roubles, a prodigious sum for a poor family to expend upon an article so pernicious in its moral and physical effects. Such a sum of money in Kamtchatka would produce near six or eight hundred pounds weight of flour; enough to support a small family during a whole year: or, such a sum would enable them to purchase proper clothing, culinary utensils, nets, twine, tobacco, axes, and knives. The evil of these grog-shops is carried to so ruinous an extent, that the children of the natives are left for three and four days without any food, save yukola, dried fish, doled out to them one or twice within that time. I have known instances of mothers and children being left without any means of support, in consequence of the retailing of such trash being allowed. The yukola and the bark of trees is, in such cases, almost the only nourishment the women and children can procure for several days. If they happen to be possessed of a cow, they are considered very fortunate. It needs little philosophy to prove that it is only by taking care of the rising

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal

273 generation that the stock itself can be preserved,
435 which will not long be possible, if spirit continue
563 to be transported and retailed out as it now is.—
R While making these reflections in England, I am
177 aware that the Russian Government have desisted
.27 from this trade, but this is only the worse for the Kamtchatdales, inasmuch as the pedlers take an extra quantity, and demand a most exorbitant price for a spirit infinitely inferior.

651 The abuses arising from the collection of the
661 yasack are most cruel. The yasack itself is incon-
R siderable, but from the arbitrary manner in which
177 it is collected, it is rendered odious and oppressive.
.65 The tribute is levied in kind at any low or capri-cious valuation, and it has not unfrequently hap-pened that the Toion of a village, who does not properly compliment the Chief or other officer, upon the annual visit, has so small a price put up-on his furs, in payment of their tribute, that they sustain a loss of two, three, and even four hundred per cent. I have seen sables valued at half-a-crown for which the merchants present would have given twelve shillings. Independent of the yasack, each Kamtchatdale has to pay seventy copecs, or seven pence, as a sort of capitation or poll-tax, upon failure of which the Ispravnick may have recourse to the most arbitrary and unjust measures. Any property may be seized and sold on the moment, such as axes, knives, nets, guns, kettles, or the clothing of the family; and it has often happened that a